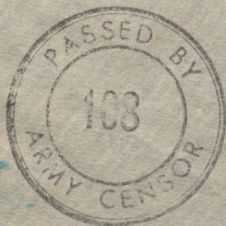


BOB THORNHILL
HQ SQ, 11TH GP
HICKAM FIELD, T.H.

SOLDIERS MAIL

VIA AIR MAIL



MRS BESSIE THORNHILL

P.O. # 205

MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI



16 JANUARY 1942

DEAR MOTHER & B.J.

RECEIVED YOUR LETTER YESTERDAY AND GLAD TO HEAR THAT EVERYONE IS OK AND HAVING A BIG TIME. IT SEEMS THAT AUNT IS PLENTY BUSY WITH THE TWO JOBS BUT SUSPOSE SHE IS HAPPY FOR THE MORE SHE HAS TO DO THE BETTER SHE SEEMS TO BE SATISFIED. I SUSPOSE SHE IS ALSO BRINGING IN THE DOUGH TOO.

AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE BROCK IS ALRIGHT AND FOR RAY HE ONLY HAD A SMALL HOLE IN HIS HEEL. I WAS OVER TO SEE HIM RIGHT AFTER HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND HE SAID IT WASN'T ANYTHING TO IT AND THAT HE WOULD BE OUT IN A DAY OR TWO BUT IT DIDN'T GET WELL AS QUICK AS HE WAS EXPECTING. ALL I KNEW IS WHAT HE TOLD ME AND TOO I WAS WRITING ON A POST CARD AND DIDN'T HAVE THE ROOM TO GO INTO DETAILS. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HADN'T HEARD FROM BROCK FOR HE SAID HE HAD WRITTEN YOU SEVERAL TIMES. SO DON'T WORRY FOR ANY THAT MIGHT HAPPEN YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT IT AND IT WILL BE STRAIGHT AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN CLOSED SO DON'T SUSPOSE I WILL GET TO FINISH. IT MIGHT BE THAT THEY WILL START IT SOMETIMES IN THE FUTURE AND IF THEY DO SUSPOSE I WILL GET A CHANCE TO FINISH IT. I AM IN THE ELECTRICAL SHOP NOW WHICH IS VERY INTERESTING.

I WAS TALKING TO MRS Cady & EMERSON THE OTHER DAY AND THEY WERE TICKLED TO DEATH OVER THE LETTERS FROM YOU, AUNT AND AUNT BABE. MRS WALL TOOK SOME PICTURES THE LAST TIME WE WERE DOWN AND SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD SEND YOU ONE OR MORE, SO YOU CAN BE LOOKING FOR THEM. I GOT A CARD FROM MRS Cady YESTERDAY WANTING BETTY AND I TO COME DOWN AND

16 JANUARY 1945

HAVE DINNER WITH HER, SHE SAID WE WOULD HAVE PINEAPPLE DELIGHT

DEAR MOTHER & B.J.

WHICH IS MY FAVORITE. SHE IS GETTING OFF ONE DAY NEXT WEEK
RECEIVED YOUR LETTER YESTERDAY AND GLAD TO HEAR THAT EVERYONE

SO IT MIGHT BE THAT WE CAN GO, HOPE SO ANYWAY. I THINK I
IS OK AND HAVING A BIG TIME. IT SEEMS THAT AUNT IS PLENTY

CAN GET A PASS FOR ITS BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I HAVE HAD ONE.
BUSY WITH THE TWO JOBS BUT SUPPOSE SHE IS HAPPY FOR THE

I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVE GOOD TIRES ON THE CAR
MORE SHE HAS TO DO THE BETTER SHE SEEMS TO BE SATISFIED.
AND TWO EXTRAS. MAYBE THEY WILL LAST UNTILL THEY START SELL-
I SUPPOSE SHE IS ALSO BRINGING IN THE DOUGH TOO.

ING THEM AGAIN AND TOO THEY CAN BE RECAPED IF NECESSARY.
AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE BROCK IS ALRIGHT AND FOR RAY HE

IT MIGHT BE THAT THEY WANT RESTRICT GAS THERE FOR THERE IS
ONLY A SMALL HOLE IN HIS HEEL. I WAS OVER TO SEE HIM

NO SHORTAGE. THE REASON WE CAN'T GET IT IS THAT IT HAS TO
RIGHT AFTER HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND HE SAID IT WASN'T

BE SHIPED HERE AND THEY NEED THE SPACE FOR OTHER THINGS.
ANYTHING TO IT AND THAT HE WOULD BE OUT IN A DAY OR TWO BUT

DID I TELL YOU THAT I HAD ANOTHER TOOTH EXTRACTED
IT DIDN'T GET WELL AS QUICK AS HE WAS EXPECTING. ALL I

THE OTHER DAY. ANY WAY I BROKE ONE OF THEM OFF AND THE
KNEW IS WHAT HE TOLD ME AND TOO I WAS WRITING ON A POST

DB. SAID IT NEEDED PULLING SO OUT IT CAME.
CARD AND DIDN'T HAVE THE ROOM TO GO INTO DETAILS. I DON'T

SNO NEWS SO WILL SEE YOU LATER

KNOW WHY YOU HADN'T HEARD FROM BROCK FOR HE SAID HE HAD

THING

WRITTEN YOU SEVERAL TIMES. SO DON'T WORRY FOR ANY THAT MIGHT

LOVE BOB.

HAPPEN YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT IT AND IT WILL BE STRIGHT AS

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN CLOSED SO DON'T SUPPOSE I WILL GET

BROCK THORNHILL

TO FINISH. IT MIGHT BE THAT I WILL START IT SOMETIMES

BELLOWS FIELD

IN THE FUTURE. I DON'T SUPPOSE I WILL GET A CHANCE

TO FINISH IT. I AM IN THE ELECTRICAL SHOP NOW WHICH IS

VERY INTERESTING.

I WAS TALKING TO MRS GADY & EMERSON THE OTHER DAY AND

THEY WERE TICKLED TO DEATH OVER THE LETTERS FROM YOU, AWA

AND AUNT BAGE. MRS WALL TOOK SOME PICTURES THE LAST TIME

WE WERE DOWN AND SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD SEND YOU ONE OR

MORE, SO YOU CAN BE LOOKING FOR THEM. I GOT A CARD FROM

MRS GADY YESTERDAY WANTING BETTY AND I TO COME DOWN AND

WILL ADD A LITTLE TO THE LETTER AFTER GETTING ONE FROM

YOU

SAY I AM GETTING BETTER, I GOT A LETTER FROM YOU
YESTERDAY AND ANOTHER ONE TO DAY. I ALSO GOT ONE FROM
AUNT DORA AND HILDA TO DAY AND DON'T THINK I APPRECIATE
THEM FOR I WASN'T IN THE BEST OF MOOD.

FROM ALL ACCOUNTS IT MUST BE PRETTY COLD THERE. HILDA
SAID ALL OF THEIR WATER PIPES WAS FROZEN AND IT LOOKED
AS THO IT MIGHT BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE THEY THRAW OUT. I

THINK A LITTLE COLD WEATHER WOULD BE NICE FOR A CHANGE.

I THINK YOU ARE MISTAKEN ABOUT THE ADDRESS FOR WE
HAVE A TAG TO WEAR AROUND OUR NECKS AND THEY PUT YOUR
NAME ON SO IS CASE ANYTHING HAPPEN THEY WOULD NOTIFLY

YOU. I WILL SEE ABOUT IT TO MORROW AND CHANGE THE
ADDRESS. FROM TYLERTOWN TO MAGNOLIA.

YOU ASK ABOUT THE CAKE IN BETTYS PICTURE WELL MRS SMITH
HAS A LITTLE BOY AND IT WAS HIS BIRTH DAY CAKE. MRS SMITH
IS HER NEIGHBOR AND THE LITTLE BOY INSISTED THAT SHE HOLD

IT. IT SEEMS THAT IT MIGHT BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE SHE GOES
BACK AND SHE IS TRYING TO GET A JOB IN TOWN FOR THE HRS.

ARE TOO LONG AND TOO ITS INCONVENIENT. YOU ASK ABOUT BARBARA,
WELL SHE IS AS SWEET AS CAN BE AS A FRIEND BUT FOR A DATE
SHE IS NO GOOD, GET WHAT I MEAN , A ICEBURG OTHERWORDS.

SO GRACE WAS WONDERING WHY SHE HADN'T GOT A XMAS CARD.
AS FOR AS BROCK IS CONCERN I THINK SHE HAD JUST AS WELL
HANG UP. FOR HE ADMITTED HE LEARNED A DARN GOOD LESSON FROM
HER AND HE HAS WISED UP A LOT AFTER THE WAY SHE DID HIM. I
WAS DARN GLAD OF IT TO FOR HE HAS A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK ON
WOMEN NOW. HE LIKES THEM ALL NOW, HE WAS TAKEING A DIFFERENT
ONE OUT EVERY NITE AND YOU KNOW HOW HE WAS AT HOME.

WILL ADD A LITTLE TO THE LETTER AFTER GETTING ONE FROM

JOY

IT SOUNDS AS THO YOU HAVE A LARGE FAMILY ON THE FARM
SAY I AM GETTING BETTER. I GOT A LETTER FROM YOU
THIS YEAR AND I HOPE THEY TAKE INTEREST IN IT FOR WITH OUT
YESTERDAY AND ANOTHER ONE TO DAY. I ALSO GOT ONE FROM
NO ONE AROUND TO KEEP AFTER THEM IT IS A TEMPTATION TO
TO NOT DORA AND HILDA TO DAY AND DON'T THINK I APPRECIATE
LOAF A LOT. YOU DIDNT SAY HOW MANY WAS IN THE FAMILY.

THEM FOR I WASNT IN THE BEST OF MOOD.

AS I SAID BEFORE I ADVISE YOU TO PLANT AS BIG AS CROP

FROM ALL ACCOUNTS IT MUST BE PRETTY COLD THERE. HILDA

AS POSSIBLE FOR IT MAY BE PROFITABLE THIS YEAR. I ALSO

XXXX SAID ALL OF THEIR WATER PIPES WERE FROZEN AND IT LOOKED

HOPE UNCLE GETS SOME ACTION OUT OF THOSE GUYS SO YOU CAN

AS THO IT MIGHT BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE THEY THAW OUT. I

MAKE PLANS FOR THE YEAR.

THINK A LITTLE COLD WEATHER WOULD BE NICE FOR A CHANGE.

WE HAVE PLENTY GOOD MUSIC OVER THE RADIO NOW. BEFORE

I THINK YOU ARE MISTAKEN ABOUT THE ADDRESS FOR WE

THE WAB MOST OF THE PROGRAMS WERE JAPANESE, PHILIPPINE AND

HAVE A TAG TO WEAR AROUND OUR NECKS AND THEY PUT YOUR

ECT. WE ALSO HAVE A THEATRE ON THE POST NOW SO WE CAN SEE

NAME ON SO IS CASE ANYTHING HAPPEN THEY WOULD NOTIFY

A PICTURE OCCASIONALLY.

YOU. I WILL SEE ABOUT IT TO MORROW AND KKK CHANGE THE

GLAD YOU PAID THE INSURANCE. WE HAD SENT THE MONEY

ADDRESS. FROM TYLER TOWN TO MAGALIA.

FOR YOU TO PAY IT BUT YOU BEAT US TO IT. I DON'T THINK

YOU ASK ABOUT THE CAKE IN BETTYS PICTURE WELL MRS SMITH

IT IS A CHANCE OF GETTING ANY MORE INSURANCE FOR THE GOV.

HAS A LITTLE BOY AND IT WAS HIS BIRTH DAY CAKE. MRS SMITH

INSURANCE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR I TRIED THAT A FEW

IS HER NEIGHBOR AND THE LITTLE BOY INSISTED THAT SHE HOLD

MONTHS AGO.

IT. IT SEEMS THAT IT MIGHT BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE SHE GOES

I LOVE YOU LOTS

BACK AND SHE IS TRYING TO GET A JOB IN TOWN FOR THE HRS.

BOB

ARE TOO LONG AND TOO ITS INCONVENIENT. YOU ASK ABOUT BARBARA.

WELL SHE IS AS SWEET AS CAN BE AS A FRIEND BUT FOR A DATE

SHE IS NO GOOD. GET WHAT I MEAN. A ICEBURG OTHERWORDS.

SO GRACE WAS WONDERING WHY SHE HADNT GOT A XMAS CARD.

AS FOR AS BROCK IS CONCERN I THINK SHE HAD JUST AS WELL

HANG UP. FOR HE ADMITTED HE LEARNED A DARN GOOD LESSON FROM

HER AND HE HAS WISED UP A LOT AFTER THE WAY SHE DID HIM. I

WAS DARN GLAD OF IT TO FOR HE HAS A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK ON

WOMEN NOW. HE LIKES THEM ALL NOW. HE WAS TAKING A DIFFERENT

ONE OUT EVERY NITE AND YOU KNOW HOW HE WAS AT HOME.

to the Office also. Mrs. Emerson, Knith Anderson
Don Emerson and I ate hot cakes for breakfast
at ten o'clock. we call it lunch also.
The Griggs made us accept an invitation
to their place that afternoon — no time was
stated. At one o'clock the two Kniths, Dickie
and I drove over the pali to Kilauea to
visit the Barber family. They were on their
vacation; rented a beach house — a lovely place
we went to stay only a minute but we took
bathing suits. The rum cook were good
and the swim was what we needed. I
met the Barber family at the first dinner
with Emersons. We left Kilauea at five
o'clock.

The Cadys were at the Griggs when we
got there. The old gang to gather again.
The Spanish dinner was served at
seven o'clock. It was strictly Spanish.
It was nearing black out time. The Cadys
were five miles from home. We persuaded
them to stay all night. If they hadn't of
I would have went with them.

After all dishes were clean I went over to brush my teeth. A few minutes later every one was at Emersons. They were on there way to Gordons. I joined them. We were served lemonade before we left. — The day was out as I planned. Mr. & Mrs. Cady stayed with Griggs. Kathryn and I stayed with Emerson.

Monday morning time I planned to visit Wells. I didn't have breakfast until nine O'Clock. Mrs. Emerson had washing to do. I didn't think she was in the mood so I asked her to go to ten O'Clock show. She accepted. The show didn't start until eleven. We rode for 45 minutes to take up time. The show "The Man who Came to Dinner" was very good. I liked it better than the play. On our way home there came a down pour. We stopped to see Mrs. Emerson's sister and mother for a few minutes; we then rode up as far as we could in Maroa Valley to see the falls. We went home and had soup, bread and milk for 3:00 o'clock lunch.

I promised Kathryn I would see her again before my pass was up. She had something for me. I was waiting for them when they arrived at 4:30. I really didn't have but a few minutes to stay but she said dinner would be ready soon; it was too. A good pot roast potatoes, boiled onions etc. Ice cream & cake for desert. Who do you suppose walked in when I was eating my desert? No one but Barbara. It was possible for me to be on a spot at that time but I wasn't. Mrs. Wall was waiting in car. I went out to see her. So her was on a few minutes leave and I was going to get a pass soon and get down to see them. Every thing turned out they. I finished my meal; left for APO 957 with a can of cookies and half a cake; it was 6:15 then. I was guarding an air plane at seven. I knew I would be on guard that's why I had to eat and run. I was on guard eight hrs. I slept four.

Be my sweet mother Always. I love you dearly. I have your mother here to take care of your son for God

Early 1942

The first pages of this letter are missing

...to the office also. Mrs. Emerson, Kenneth Anderson, Don Emerson and I ate lat. cakes for breakfast at ten o'clock. We call it lunch also. The Griggs made us accept an invitation to their place that afternoon – no time was stated. At one O'clock the two Kenneth, Dickie and I drove over the Pali to Kelua to visit the Parker family. They were on their vacation; rented a beach house. A lonely place. We went to stay only a minute but we took bathing suits. The rum cakes were good and the swim was what we needed. I met the Parker family at the first dinner with the Emerson's. We left Kilua at five o'clock.

The Cady's were at the Griggs when we got there. The old gang together again. The Spanish dinner was served at seven o'clock. It was strictly Spanish. It was nearing blackout time. The Cady's were five miles from home. We persuaded them to stay all night. If they hadn't I would have went with them.

After all of the dishes were clean I went over to brush my teeth. A few minutes later everyone was at Emersons. They were on the way to Gordons. I joined them. We were served lemonade before we left. – The day was not as I planned. Mr. & Mrs. Cady stayed with Griggs. Kathryn and I stayed with Emerson.

Monday morning time I planned to visit Wall's. I didn't have breakfast until nine o'clock. Mrs. Emerson had washing to do. I didn't think she was in the mood so I asked her to go to ten o'clock show. She accepted. The show didn't start until eleven. We rode for 45 minutes to take up time. The show "The man Who Came to Dinner" was very good. I liked it better than the play. On our way home there came a down pore. We stopped to see Mrs. Emerson's sister and Mother for a few minutes; we then rode up as far as we could in Manoa Valley to see the falls. We went home and had soup, toast, and milk for 3:00 o'clock lunch. I promised Kathryn I would see her again before my pass was up. She had something for me. I was waiting for them when they arrived at 4:30. I really didn't have but a few minutes to stay bust she said dinner would be ready soon; it was too. A good pot roast potatoes, boiled onions, ect. Ice cream & cake for desert. Who do you suppose walked in when I was eating my desert? No one but Barbara. It was possible for me to be on a spot at that time but I wasn't. Mrs. Wall was waiting in car. I went out to see her. To her was on a few minutes leave and I was going to get a pass soon and get down to see them. Everything turned out okay. I finished my meal; left for APO951 with a can of cookies and half a cake; it was 6:15 then. I was guarding an airplane at seven. I knew I would be on guard that's why I had to eat and run. I was on guard eight hrs. I slept four.

Be my sweet mother always. I love you daily. I have four mothers here to take one of yours.

Love, Brock

571 Tantalus Drive, Honolulu
February 11, 1942

I long intended to write to you and tell you
are enjoying your two fine boys, but the awful
of December 7 and the following days changed all our
plans, and kept us very busy preparing for our defense,
and now comes your nice letter. You can imagine I was
very glad to receive it.

I certainly felt for you during those days and often
mentioned the anxiety I knew you were passing through.
You see I have two splendid big boys myself. Barbara and
I were very worried about Bob and Brock that day. You
see we live where we can look down upon Pearl Harbor and
Hickam Field and we saw all the bombing and the fires from
the hangars and battleships.

That morning of the dastardly attack my daughter, my
week end guest, my son's mother-in-law, Mrs. Seagrave, and
I were eating breakfast about eight o'clock. Of course we
heard all the firing but we thought it was practice, a
thing we were used to hearing. I remarked, "The service
seem to be having an extra heavy practice this morning.
They seem to be using all their big guns at once." Soon
the telephone rang and my sister was on the phone and she
told me she had something to tell me, but we must not be
frightened. She said that the shots we were hearing was
not practice but was the Japanese bombing us. Then we ran
out to our front door from where we could witness all the
historic action. We saw that Hickam Field was ablaze, and
we were alarmed for Bob and Brock right away. I was also
worried about my son who is a physician and surgeon in
charge of Ewa Plantation just past Pearl Harbor. We heard
at once that many of the boys of Hickam Field and Pearl
Harbor and Wheeler Field were gone, and we were filled with
anxiety. It was on Monday that Bob rang up, and I fairly
shouted, "Bob!", and it brought Barbara running. Of course
I asked at once about Brock and he said, "Oh yes he is all
right, at least I think he is. I have not seen him yet."
That left us all the more anxious. We were afraid that he
was not too sure. Then on Wednesday we heard a car stop in
front of our house, and there was Bob coming up the walk.
I ran to him and almost hugged him to death. Then he told
us that Brock was surely all right. Brock had lost all his
possessions and their nice car, and had only the clothes he
had on.

He told us that he was standing outside watching what he thought was a practise when he saw that the planes were on fire and the hangars were being hit, and when he saw a plane heading straight for him with machine guns popping at everything in sight, and one aimed at him, he made a dive into a house and lay on the floor. Many of the boys were not so lucky. Brock ran for his post of duty. When he told me that he ran toward the hangars, I said, "What did you run in that direction for. That was running right into the path of danger?" He said, "That is where my post of duty was. It was my duty to help get those planes into the air." You should be proud of your boys.

I found out afterwards that the enemy planes had swooped down low over Ewa and one had machine gunned my son's residence sending a machine bullet through the ceiling of his dining room. It took a slanting course right past where my son's head would have been had he been at breakfast and buried itself in the opposite wall, from where he has pried it for a souvenir. Then he took his wife, two little babies, the maid and his dog down to his hospital. Then they machine gunned the hospital and sent bullets through it. They tried to shoot the nurses every time they tried to go between the hospital and the nurse's cottage. As soon as he could get them past Pearl Harbor he sent them in to me where they staid for a week until we felt assured that they were not going to call upon us again.

A few days later Bob and Brock both came in a borrowed car. It belonged to a comrade who was killed. We had planned for all of us to go down to Ewa to my son's for Christmas dinner, but all our fine plans were spoiled. My son changed the dinner hour to a noon day one to conform with blackout hours, but the boys were unable to get off. At long last the army and navy were on the alert--a very special alert. We had been unable to buy a real Christmas tree as the very few that came were sent directly to the army and navy. It was the first time in Barbara's life that she had none of the fragrance of the Christmas tree. My daughter had made a very lovely tree as an extra, one Christmas. It was made of crepe tissue and was frosted with sparkling Christmas snow. I dug that out and used it. You will see it in some of the pictures. We kept it up long past Christmas in order that we might have a little of the Christmas spirit when the boys could come in, and finally Bob came. Later both boys came and I took some pictures. That day we had men in digging on

our air raid shelter, and I snapped the group as they were inspecting the job. I am sending one of the pictures as I know how a mother enjoys these touches of a normal family life in these troublesome times.

I do not know whether Brock told you that he came and got Barbara in his nice car the evening of December the sixth and they drove down Fort Street over and over enjoying immeasurably the delight of the elaborate strings of Christmas lights strung overhead, and then they went to the movies, and after a snack afterward, they came home about midnight. Little did they know that never again would they take another drive in that car, nor again ever see the strings of lights! Just a short eight hours away from disaster! But Babs says that it could have been far worse.

I was sorry that the boys were separated and Brock has to be so far over on the other side of the island at Bellows Field. He can get in so seldom, but he has just now been changed to drive a big gasoline truck into town every other day, and he hopes to be able to run up and see us. He has not been able to make it yet, but we have been on a very special double alert and I understand that they are not allowing anyone off.

Have they ever told you about the Flying Squadron? Barbara is a Squadron Leader and has her own squadron and wears two beautiful wing pins which were pinned upon her shoulder by the highest officers in army and navy. You will see them in one of the pictures I am sending. She is supposed to wear them at all times in order that the boys she passes may know that she is a Flying Squadron leader. They often ask me to be hostess at the Flying Squadron dances, and I am going with Barbara this coming Sunday to a dance at Hickam Field and we will be with Bob all afternoon that day. Very often when he is not dancing with Barbara, he comes and sits down by me and talks with me. The fine big mess hall where they used to dance was destroyed December 7, and I do not know where they will dance.

Please write again. I'd love to hear from you whenever you care to write and rest assured that I will keep a watchful and motherly eye upon the boys just the same as I do upon my own.

With aloha,

Edith Wall

C. T. B. Thornhill
Bellows Field, T.H.



Via Clipper Soldier Mail

SOLDIER'S MAIL

Mrs. Bessie Thornhill

OX 205

25 nolia, Mississippi



2-13-42

Dear Mother + B.J.,

Yesterday must have been shorter than any day of the week. I went on gas; it seemed like the time flew instead of cruising by. I used a friend's car - 1936 Packard with rumble seat and no top. Chester Grubbs went with me.

I went to see Mrs. Lady first. She informed me that Bob and Betty were coming for lunch. That's the second time Bob + I got passes the same day.

I wanted to see Barbara so I went to see her that morning. Bob came while I was there. I got Barbara to

have lunch with us at
Mrs. Cadys. She didn't like
the idea of dropping in on her
without an invitation.
Of course we made it all
right with both parties.

It was 3:30 before I knew
it. My gas was until six. But
I had to see Serena before
returning to the field.
I found their house without
any trouble. It's one of the quietest
houses in the district and in
a good location. Serena
wasn't at home as usual.
I wait until she came. I
was with her for thirty
minutes. She wants me
to see her often.

Mrs. Cady gave ~~me~~
and I a lot of candy a piece.
She has candy for us each time
we visit her. I would like
to call on her each day. That
is not probable though.
She heard from Marion last
week; she want he able to come
home this summer. She received
my letter and is going to answer
it soon. I would like to
see her badly.

I got a letter from Barbara
and one from Mrs. Cady to day.
They are sweet about writing.
I must write both of them
soon.

I decided not to buy the
old car. If I can't borrow a

A car is worth the \$2 transportation
a car means a lot to one life.
but not so much that I can't
do without one

oh yes! I was about to
forget. Your train sons are now
corporals. just a year ago
I was acting corporal. They
tell me that this is the real
thing. Bah told me about his
rating yesterday morning. I found
out that I was rated last
night

Please excuse the writing
I can't seem to be able to
write for day. I will do
better next time. Bah mailed
your letters to me yesterday I should
get them to you tomorrow
Love, Bird

2-13-42

Dear Mother,

Yesterday must have been shorter than any day of the week. I went on pass; it seemed like the time flew instead of cruising by. I used a friend's car - 1936 Packard with rumble seat and no top. Chester Grahouk went with me.

I went to see Mrs. Cady first. She informed me that Bob and Betty were coming for lunch. That's the second time Bob and I got passes the same day.

I wanted to see Barbara so I went to see her that morning. Bob came while I was there. I got Barbara to have lunch with us at Mrs.. Cady's. She didn't like the idea of dropping in on her without an invitation of course we make it all right with both parties.

It was 3:30 before I knew it my pass was until six. But I had to see Serena before returning to the field. I found their house in the district and in a good location. Serena wasn't at home as usual. I wat until she came. I was with her for thirty minutes. She wants me to see her often.

Mrs. Cady gave Bob and I a box of candy a piece. She has candy for us each time we visit her. I would like to call on her each day. That is not probable though. She heard from Marjorie last week; she won't be able to come home this summer. She received my letter and is going to answer it soon. I would like to see her badly.

I got a letter from Barbara and one from Mrs.. Cady today. They are sweet about writing. I must write both of seem soon.

I decided not to buy the old car. If I can't borrow a car I will GI transportation. A car means a lot to one's life but not so much that I can't do without one.

Oh yes! I was about to forget. Your two sons are now corporals. Just a year ago I was acting corporal. They tell me that this is the real thing. Bob told me about his rating yesterday morning. I found out that I was rated last night.

Please excuse the writing I can't seem to be able to write for today. I will do better next time. Bob mailed your letters to me yesterday. I should get them tomorrow.

Love, Brock

3-10-42

Dearest Ones,

To-day is pay day but I
won't get paid until to-morrow.
My squadron will bring our pay
from Bellows.

If you sent the pictures
by air mail they should be
her in a few days. I can hardly
wait to see them. Bah has the
picture you gave us for our
birthday in his room. It's
a nice looking picture. The
ones you are sending will give
us a good collection.

Say, I didn't know Major
was 27. Time passes fast
doesn't it. If you will send
me the date of his birthday
I will remember him on

that day next year.

I would pick a misty, windy day for a pass; but, the day was enjoyed. I was at Barbara's until 3:30. we sat by the fire place and ate 'Pop Corn'. It took me thirty minutes to get the fire started. A fire is a thing of the past I suppose.

I saw Mrs. Cady & Kathy for a few minutes. I drove Leona to one of her friends for dinner.

I had dinner with the Emerson's. I couldn't stay long for I had to be back here at 6:30.

Everyone is working these days. One hasn't much time for pleasure.

I used our car. we got a real buy this time. It will be ours after to-morrow.

I will see you again soon.

Salvage L. Thonkhill Love Brock

3-10-42

Dearest Ones,

Today is pay day but I won't get paid until tomorrow. My squadron will bring our pay from Bellows.

If you sent the pictures by air mail they should be here in a few days. I can hardly wait to see them. Bob has the picture you gave us for our birthday in his room. It's a nice looking picture. The ones you are sending will give us a good collection.

Say, I didn't know Major was 27. Time passes fast doesn't it. I you will send me the date of his birthday I will remember him on that day next year.

I would pick a misty, windy day for a pass; but the day was enjoyed. I was at Barbara's until 3:30. We sat by the fireplace and ate popcorn! It took me thirty minutes to get the fire started. A fire is a thing of the past I suppose.

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I had dinner with the Emerson's. I couldn't stay long for I had to be back here at 6:30.

Everyone is working these days. One hasn't much time for pleasure.

I used our car. We got a real buy this time. It will be ours after tomorrow.

I will see you again soon,

Love

Talmage B Thornhill

Brock

Cpl. James R. Thornhill (7002192)

Hq Sq, 11th Gp (H)

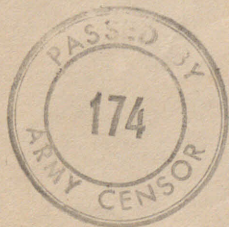
APO #953

c/o Postmaster

San Francisco, Calif.



SERVICE MAIL VAI CLIPPE
VIA AIR MAIL



Mrs Bessie Thornhill

P.O. #205

Magnolia, Mississippi.

17 April 1942

Dear Mother & B. J.

I feel much better to day, I got a letter from Ava, you and Aunt Babe. The first ones in over three weeks. They were mailed in march, but still good. I know I have several more on the way so will probably get them in a few days. Brock got from you the other day with pictures of the negros & Sue Caral and are they good. You shouldnt have any trouble getting work done with all those around. That Marjie really writes a swell letter dosent she? I will find out when her birthday is and let you know for know she would enjoy a box from you. I hadent got Ava's box yet but will before long. I am still eating on the candy you sent and it seemsto get better every day.

Brock went back to his Squadron to day. I took him over this afternoon and went to the show on the way back. He will write you about it and also give you his address.

Ava said Major had finished school and I know she is proud as well as he. It must have lasted about four months. Too bad Sue had to be sick on Easter day for I know she had more easter than she knew what to do with. That picture of her is darling and B. J. is almost unbelievable. I proably want know her when I see her.

I will be glad when court is over and setteled. I can't get over uncle Walter saying what he did, but knowing him as I do wouldnt expect anything more. I would like to know where he is, but suspose if he cared he would let us know. Brock got a letter from Betty Marie the other day and she sent a picture of She, Junior, And John. I can't help but feel sorry for those kids for they are all as cute as pan be but I can't see any future for them what so ever. I wonder what they will do when they quit getting the bonus.

Aunt Babe sent the proof of grandmothers pictures but they are fadeing. No news so will see you later. Remember I love you more and more every day.
Love Bob

April 18, 1942

Dearest Ones,

I am back with my squadron once more. The time spent away was an experience that I will never forget. My work was interesting. The people I met were some what different than the ones I know here. My passes came frequent. I have been told that my passes will be cut in ~~to~~ half. I left the car with Bob. He gets two passes a week. I will need the car. I will use G. I. Transportation to Bob's quarters and get the car there.

I got here yesterday at 12:30. A truck left here to go to a U. S. O. dance at 10:55. I went on that truck. The girls were from Roosevelt High School. Some of them were nice looking and good dancers. I had a good time. even though the dance lasted only a couple hours.

My last pass was some time ago. I had to see Dorothy so that was my first stop. I got to see her for a few minutes before she went on duty. I want to date her because she is a beautiful girl. I know she has several men wanting to date her but that doesn't bother me. I am going to try for a date every time I go on pass.

I met Serena at 4:30. She is getting puttier every day. I rode a while then went home. I stayed for some time. She played several popular records that set up a pleasant atmosphere.

Bob called me at 9:15. He told me that he wanted the car. I drove out and gave it to him. I left Mrs. Emerson feeling fine.

The pictures of the negro family is okay. Have you one of the house and place.
Don't forget that I will love you always,
Bruce

April 18, 1942

Dearest Ones,

I am back with my squadron once more. The time spent away was an experience that I will never forget. My work was interesting. The people I met were somewhat different than the ones I knew here. My passes came frequent. I have been told that my passes will be cut in half. I left the car with Bob. He gets two passes a week. He will need the car. I will use G.I. transportation to Bob's quarters and get the car there.

I got here yesterday at 12:30. A truck left here to go to a USO dance at 12:55. I went to that truck. The girls were from Roosevelt High School. Some of them were nice looking and good dancers. I had a good time even though the dance lasted only a couple of hours.

My last pass was some time ago. I had to see Dorothy so that was my first stop. I got to see her for a few minutes before she went on duty. I want to date her because she is a beautiful girl. I know she has several men wanting to date her but that doesn't bother me. I am going to try for a date every time I go on pass.

I met Serena at 4:30. She is getting prettier every day. I rode a while then went home. I stayed for some time. She played several popular records that set up a pleasant atmosphere.

Bob called me at 97368 and told me that he wanted the car. I drove out and gave it to him. I left Mr. Emerson's feeling fine.

The pictures of the negro family do okay. Have you one of the house and place.

Don't forget that I will love you always,

Brock

9 May 1942

Dear Mother & B. J.

I am glad to hear that Betty Jean got off to the Band concert and know she will have a wonderful time for she has been looking forward to going for some time. Here is hoping they win something. She will enjoy the visit with Grandmother also. Hope you have a good trip and find her improving.

You should have gotten your picture the same time B. J. did for I mailed them both at the same time. You probably got it in the next day or two. I am so afraid it got broken on account of it being so big and easy to bind. Hilda said she got hers also and was tickle pink over it.

Can hardly wait for the other box of candy for this is almost out and I wouldn't know what to do with out some around to eat. Its been quite a while since Ive been without you know; I am afraid I will have to keep a pretty close eye on Brock tho if I get any. I am going to let him have the car next Month for he needs it more than I do; too when he is on pass he can come by and get me for its not so far out of the way.

So the Glee club is coming; Glad you have Wilbur for a guess and know he will enjoy it. I wonder if he is sweating the draft or will he be exempted.

Imagine you will have lots of fun rationing sugar; but it want be hard to do. Thats one thing they want have to ration here; I don't think but we will get in on everything else tho.

Too bad Jep broke her arm, but she probably will for get about while visiting Maxine and then coming home. I know she is thrilled to death over it. I suppose John is expecting to be called in the army before long.

I have a pass for to morrow, which is mother's day. I havent decided just what I will do yet but hope it will be exciting. Its come to the point that I don't give a damn for a pass any more for there is nothing interesting to do. I will be thinking of you tomorrow tho.

Love

I have a damn good friend at Baton Rouge, La. His name is T. O. King you probably remember me speaking of him several times anyway I gave him Ava's address in case he could get down there. He is a Lieut. and is a Pilot. In case he gets there be sure he has a good time. Get him a date and let him have the car. You can write and ask him to come down if you want his Address: Lt. T. O. King, Baton Rouge Air Base, He may not be there long but just in case he is I would like for him to go if possible. Hes a darn nice kid and know you would like him.

Sunday 10/10/11

My dearest Boys,

To day has been a lovely
We've been burning up for two weeks
but there's been a grand breeze all
day and we enjoyed it to the ut-
most. Last night was pleasant too and I
stayed in bed till nine this morning.
After dinner I took a nap then put a
chair in the yard and enjoyed the
breeze and watching the people going
by.

Don't believe I wrote you about some one
fooling with my car one night last week.
The lady across the street called me about
one o'clock and told me that some one
was doing some thing to my car. B. J.
heard me talking and jumped up and
turned on her light - the neighbor had
also turned her on. Naturally, who
ever it was left when the lights were
turned on. I think he was trying to
break the lock on the car. I'm parking
it at my window now.

Betty's birthday swimming party was
a great success. There were 16 girls and
boys. Ada, Dickie, Doc, Eddie. Hobson
Kozel and their boys and D. ~~the~~ Hobson
and Kozel brought both their cars but

an Enock bag came in a veg
station wagon at Hagle didn't use her
car. When we got home she had a flat
so it was good that we didn't. Had
two pizze of peach ice cream the
cake and cocolas - By the way Mrs
Pop. baked the cake and gave it to Bf
it was lovely to

It seems that Mamma's birthday dinner
will be Sun. before you get here. We
had planned to have it Sun after you
came but she was worrying so much
about it that Dora and Zalt decided it
would be better to go on and have it
and then we could go back down
on Sun. while you are here. Hobson
wants to plan a couple days and
nights fishing and picnicing so I'm
sure you will approve. But how as you
you your birthday will be Sat. after you
come so you know that means we are
going to a place to eat with plenty
to eat tucked in the car. Dora said
that mamma didn't think we were going
to have her dinner at Brother's and just
kept putting her off to fuss her. I'm afraid
it will be too much for her but you
have never seen any body want any thing
so bad. Linda is in Chicago and will
be till Sat. so Zalt. wants me to go for
mamma Thursday and let her rest

here till Sat then take her to Brown
Sat. afternoon. I dread it for Jim afraid
she's not strong enough and this hot
Weather want to add much help.

How did the rest of my pictures come
out? Major. Wants a set of the ones we
made the week end he was there so if
you didn't have some made for him
bring the negatives so can have some
made for him.

Oh. I forgot to tell you about Ada losing
her glasses at B.G. party. After coming out
of river she missed them and couldn't
decide if she left them at home or not.
We borrowed a knife from Mr Ainsworth
to cut the cake since I forgot to take one.
Guess you think this doesn't make con-
nection but it did to night. Mrs Ainsworth
called and said she felt sure that the glasses
were there. Said Mr Ainsworth had tried
to use them two or three times to day
and had decided he needed to have his
eyes changed because he couldn't see
through them. To night he discovered
they were not his so called Ains. Said
she remembered wiping them off while
in the house so I guess when Mrs
A. handed her the knife she put the
glasses down and took the knife.
I told her. I knew she was a little
off but not that bad. Certainly after

They are here for Aunt Ned to have to
buy a new pair. Mr. Amersforth knew
that you are coming in 5th. Said
he had got the word to be ready for you.
Did you write him or what. I sure
would like for him to help me a little
right now for I'm low. London goes
stamps.

I'm still sewing but one day right
soon I'm going to sell the machine
in the corner and ~~just~~ get it a
while. Am getting every body fixed but
myself. And I can make out with
what I have.

Bought 15 fivers Sat. for \$1.00 each.
Sure we want to buy @ chicken especially
at that price. Bet I'll raise my own
after this. We dressed and put them
in the locker so they are ready and
waiting for you. Want to try and get
a few more. Was. asked Sid. to get me
a ham and he said he would.
Night my dear. I'll write you in
night or two. Remember, I love you
brother

Sunday night
July, 1942*

My Dearest Boys,

Today has been lovely. We've been burning up for two weeks but there's been a grand breeze all day and I've enjoyed it to the utmost. Last night was pleasant too and I stayed in bed till nine this morning. After dinner I took a nap then put a chair in the yard and enjoyed the breeze and watching the people going by.

Don't believe I wrote you about someone fooling with my car one night last week. The lady across the street called me about one o'clock and told me that someone was doing something to my car. B.J. heard me talking and jumped up and turned on the light. The neighbors also turned her's on. Naturally, whoever it was left when the lights were turned on. I think he was trying to break the lock on the car. I'm parking at my window now.

Betty J birthday swimming party was a great success. There were 16 girls and boys. Ava, Vickie, the Calines, Hobson, Hazel and their boys and Dr. Jackson and Hazel brought both their cars but Enoch boy came in a big station wagon so Hazel didn't use her car. When we got home she had a flat so it was good that we didn't. Had two freezers of peach ice cream, the cakes and Coca Colas. By the way, Mrs. Pope baked the cake and gave it to B.J. It was lovely too.

It seems that Mama's birthday dinner will be Sun. before you get here. We had planned to have it Sun after you came but she was worrying so much about it that Dora and Tal decided it would be better to go on and have it and then we could go back down one Sun. while you are here. Hobson wants to plan a couple days and nights fishing and picnicking so I'm sure you will approve. Anyhow as your birthday will be Sat. after you come so you know that means going to a place to swim with plenty to eat tucked in the car. Dora said that mamma didn't think we were going to have her dinner at Brothers and just kept putting her off to fool her. I'm afraid it will be too much for her but you have never seen anybody want anything so bad. Lena is in Chicago and will be till Sat. so Tal wants me to go for mamma Thursday and let her rest here till Sat then take her to brothers Sat. afternoon. I dread it for I'm afraid she's not strong enough and this hot weather won't help much.

How did the rest of my pictures come out? Major wants a set of the ones we made this weekend he was there so if you didn't have some made for him bring the negatives so can have some made for him.

Oh, I forgot to tell you about Ava losing her glasses at B.J. party. After coming out of the river she missed them and couldn't decide if she left them at home or not. We borrowed a knife from Mr. Ainsworth to cut the cake since I forgot to take one. Guess you think this doesn't make a connection but it did tonight. Mrs. Ainsworth called and said she felt sure that the glasses are there. Said Mr. Ainsworth had tried to use them two or three times today and had decided he needed to have his lenses changed because

he couldn't see through them. Tonight he discovered they were not his so called Ava. Said she remembered wiping them off while in the house so I guess when Mrs. A. handed her the knife she put the glasses down and took the knife. I told her I knew she was a little off but not that bad. Certainly hope they are hers for I don't need to buy a new pair. Mr. Ainsworth knew that you are coming on 5th. Said he had got the word to be ready for you. Did you write him or what? Sure would like for him to help me a little right now for I'm low. Low on gas stamps.

I'm still sewing but one day right soon I'm going to roll the machine in the corner and forget it a while. Am getting everybody fixed but myself and I can make out with what I have.

Bought 15 fryers Sat. for \$1.00 each. Sure does hurt to buy chicken especially at that price. Bet I'll raise my own after this. We dressed and put them in the locker so they are ready and waiting for you. Want to try and get a few more. Ava asked Sid to get us a ham and he said he would. Write my dears. I'll write you in night or two. Remember I love you,

Mother

*Betty Jean's birthday, on June 22, had just happened, so this letter must have been written in July

Gt. J.B. Thomhill
12nd Bomb Sq. (W)
APO 951 G.P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.

SOLDIER'S MAIL



Soldiers Mail
VIA Clipper



Mrs. Bessie Thomhill
Box 205
Magnolia, Mississippi

August 5, 1942

Dearest Mother,

Your letter of July 24 came yesterday. I am glad the letter and gift reached you on your birthday. Bah's letter came to me also. I will send both to him to-day.

Major Grey used to be my Squadron Commander but he isn't now. There is nothing he can do for me. Remember dear that I am a grown man; I can take care of my self so stop your worrying. I need your love and prayers but not the worries.

I am sorry about Jim's illness. Maybe he will be able to continue his studies in a few years. Could it be that he studied too hard?

Bob is home again. I will send you a wire if I can get to town soon. I know you want to hear from him. As I have said before there is no need to worry; it doesn't get you any where and it does a world of harm. Bob and I want you to wear a smile all the time. We can't see you to help but we want to give you anything that money can buy. Jesus knows of your troubles and we will do what we can.

The A.M. ratings you wanted me to
get is out. There are no ratings of that kind
any more. There is no need to talk about
what I haven't got or what I should get.
There are ratings given out often. If two
men in this squadron want me to have
one I will get it. If I make a snarther out
so much for it; if I don't I will not say
a word about it. I know how men get their
ratings that's why I don't raise hand when
a recruit makes Sergeant before a lot.

I mailed the pictures yesterday; straight
mail; you should get them in September.
I hope they don't get lost for they are what
you want.

That good guard duty is calling
so I will answer; I will be with
you again soon. Keep your chin
up and don't forget we love you.
To the dearest mother in
the world.
Love
Brook

August 5, 1942

Dearest Mother,

Your letter of July 24 came yesterday. I am glad the letter and gift reached you on your birthday. Bob's letter came to me also. I will send both to him today.

Major Grey used to be my squadron commander but he isn't now. There is nothing he can do for me. Remember dear that I am a grown man; I can take care of myself so stop your worrying. I need your love and prayers but not the worries.

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The A.M. rating you wanted me to get is out. There are no ratings of that kind anymore. There is no need to talk about what I haven't got or what I should get. There are ratings given out often. If two men in this squadron want me to have one I will get it. If I make another one so much for it, if I don't I will not say a word about it. I know how men get their ratings that's why I don't raise sand when a recruit makes Sergeant before I do.

I mailed the pictures yesterday. Straight mail; you should get them in September. I hope they don't get lost for they are what you want.

That good guard duty is calling so I will answer; I will be with you again soon. Keep your chin up and don't forget we love you.

To the dearest Mother in the world,

Love,
Brock

W. E. Wall
2667 Tantalus Dr.
Honolulu, T.H.



Via Clipper

Received in full payment of
Honolulu, Hawaii

Mr. Bessie Thornhill

Box 285-

Magnolia

Mississippi

2642

2667 Tantalus Drive, Honolulu.
August 9, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thornhill;

I feel that I must write and tell you of such a happy time that we had with Buck last week. Barbara had just driven away to go to one of her Flying Squadron dances when I heard a car drive in, and when I went out there was Buck. I was feeling distressed that he had not come five minutes earlier as Barbara was to stay to dinner, but just then I heard another car drive in and it was Barbara. She had passed him and recognized his car. She would have been disappointed to miss any of his visit as he can get in so seldom. He could stay all night, but had to leave early in the morning. We gave him an early breakfast, so he could make the three quarters of

an hour trip back to Bellows Field and be there for work line up.

We had dinner and we talked until midnight. He had brought over your picture and the pictures of the rest of the family. He is justly proud of his family.

Of course, we kept going back to Bob. He had hoped to hear from him before this, but he is probably some place where he is out of reach of the cable or radio. Brock misses him greatly, and I am glad he has Mrs. Cady and our home to come to when he comes to town. He always spent so much time with Bob when he came to town.

A few nights before Brock came to see us, we stopped at Mrs. Cady's as we were returning from dining out. Barbara ran in to leave some night blooming cereus buds, and who should be there but Brock! He was having dinner with them, and then had to hurry back to get in before black out. He told us then

that he was going to try for an all night pass soon.

I have told him to try for a three day pass, and we will have a swim and picnic dinner at the Outrigger Club at Maikiki. I hope he makes it.

I just thought you would enjoy this little chat about one day in Buck's life. Every third night he has to stand 12 hour guard duty beginning at 7 P.M. We counted up that he would be on guard tonight (Sunday) and we told him we would be thinking about him.

With best wishes and aloha

Edith Wall

2667 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu,
August 9, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thornhill,

I feel that I must write and tell you of such a happy time that we had with Brock last week. Barbara had just driven away to go to one of her Flying Squadron dances when I heard a car drive in, and when I went out there was Brock. I was feeling distressed that he had not come five minutes earlier as Barbara was to stay to dinner, but just then I heard another car drive in and it was Barbara. She had passed him and recognized his car. She would have been disappointed to miss any of his visits as he can get in so seldom. He could stay all night, but had to leave early in the morning. We gave him an early breakfast so he could make the three quarter of an hour trip back to Bellow's Field and be there in time for work line up.

We had dinner and we talked until midnight. He had brought over your picture and the pictures of the rest of the family. He is justly proud of his family.

Of course, we kept going back to Bob. He had hoped to hear from him before this, but he is probably some place where he is out of reach of the cable or radio. Brock misses him greatly, and I am glad he has Mrs. Cady and our home to come to when he comes to town. He always spent so much time with Bob when he came to town.

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I have told him to try for a three day pass and we will have a swim and a picnic dinner at the Outrigger Club at Waikiki. I hope he makes it.

I just thought yu would enjoy this little chat about one day in Brock's life. Every third night he has to stand 12 hour guard duty beginning at 7PM. We counted up that he would be on guard tonight (Sunday) and we told him we would be thinking about him.

With best wishes and aloha,

Edith Wall

29 August 1942

Hello Everyone;

Due to the length of time since we were ordered to leave our previous station, we had the privilege of writing a few details of our trip. Which I will try to do with out having too much of it cut out.

On the 20th of July we went aboard the boat and to my surprise moved in a 2nd cabin rather than troop class which I was expecting (thanks to some important people we had to keep an eye on). During the course of the evening and night it was we ~~had to~~ would have to move out and naturally it was very hard to take I be a first three grader or crew member, anything to keep out of that black wonder. The next morning some of the boys started moving down - but not me; for the last moment and bribing every one with the least bit of authority. moving in and in the mean time I had moved out in the hall. I set on my back fully watching the cabins fill up one by one with all kinds of rank. I would be one left. After about a half day of this a most grateful "you four have a stateroom 1st class" then every one was happy. We the doors for fear some more rank would come along and drive us. I look at that good bed, I told the boys that I would take care of it. I had ed watching old Dimondhead fade in the back ground and I can't sleep at least. The remainder of the trip I lay in bed and wouldn't budge from it.

We had a considerable smooth trip and a few alerts, which we dealt with were purely practic - we learned different later tho. After several days not knowing where our destination might be the troop commander says (we are go to New Calédonia, but as usual they changed the plans) We didn't make there.

After 10 days at sea we arrived at Suva, Fiji Islands and everyone was sighting land and anxious to see what might be in store for them. But it seemed was against us for no one was allowed a shore the three days we were there. I did learn quite a bit about the nature of the inhabitants from talking to them. I was rather surprised at their intelligents for they speak fairly good english. also very primitive - living in grass shacks & eating off the fat of the land. They consist of sarongs and from a distance its impossible to distinguish the men & women. They are also black as the ace of spades with long kinkie hair standing stright up. I got the biggest kick out of the cop's uniforms which were more like a woman dress. They wore a black blouse and white skirt coming to their knees also barefooted, what a sight! The island as a whole has very few modern conveniences.

We left there on the third of August headed (censored) to my present location. We moved out in the jungle with no convinences what so ever. As for the town there is no, no cold drinks, no place to eat, no candy or cookies, no transportation, no papers, magazines or anything. This doesn't seem to bother the boys much for they realize that this is a pleasure trip and they had a job to do and believe me its being done. The thing they detest most is the pills we have to take twice a week to prevent malaria. I don't know why but I have always been elegiac to the darn things. Too mother had me spoiled by throwing them down my throat and to the bottom of my stomach with no taste and little results. By the way, the climate here adverages about 70 degrees, and to my surprise it didn't seem much hotter when we crossed the equator. We were initiated and given a certificate as a full fledge seaman, an old tradition for passing the equator for the first time.

It seems that Brock is still enjoying good old Hawaii, and do I envy him, ask me! I also heard that the Mississippi rationing board forgot to send food to Wisconsin, and they almost starved to death, what about that?

Due to the lack of time and having so many letters to write I decided to write this in duplicate, hope you don't mind too much. How about a letter.

*Boy am I saving a lot
of time at this.*

Missingly yours

Bob
Bob

with

September 8, 1944

Hello Darling,

I went to Hickam a few days ago to sign papers for the attachment. I have to have two Affidavits from two friends that are not relatives that state you are a dependent of yours. This should be sent to me in return. I think the attachment will start soon but if it does you will get a big sum for it. I started first of last month. I hope this will keep you out of debt and with this help from the government Bob can be able to save for the future.

Has my insurance papers reached you? I don't know what to say about them. There is no need to worry though for the government will not file out.

The Emersons (twice), Griegs, Browns, and I live together) met at Cady's for a hamburger dinner one day last week. It just happened that I was driving by that day. We had a swell time. Cady made me a box of fudge. She made a box for Bob also. When I left she gave me the cake that was left. Boy was it good. I ate it last night while on duty; I worked until 3:30 this morning.

I was wrong about Bob. He is ^{there} near
but that's all. He is in a small impenetrable
jungle. I am sure he has to
about his life. I will send you
letter just in case.

Mrs. Bob has sent a package of
and papers. She will send more. I
sent him stamps. I will keep him
anything he needs. The conditions
be the same for where the service
the country begins to live. They are
hacks with plenty of water soon.

I have been working day and night
past few days. I feel it too. My hands are
scratched and cut to where the skin is sore. I am
going on past to night so as to rest up. I
think the time will be spent on the beach
with the walls. I have a standing invitation.
So have I the same at other places here.

Keep on happy now dear Bob and I
will be home soon.

Love
Paco

September 8, 1942

Hello Darling,

I went to Hickam a few days ago to sign papers for the allotment. I have to have affidavits from two friends that are not relatives that you are a dependent of your [damage]. This should be sent to me in return [damage]. I think the allotment will start soon. [damage] it does you will get a big sum for [damage] started first of last month. I hope [damage] this will help you out of debt and worry [damage] this help from the government Bob and I will be able to save for the future.

Has my insurance papers reached there? I don't know what to say about them. There is no need to worry though for the [damage] will not file out.

The Emerson's (twice) Griggs, Browns, and ? (I've forgotten) met at Cady's for a hamburger dinner one day last week. It just happened that I was driving by that day. We had a swell [damage]. Mrs. Cady made me a box of fudge. She made a box for Bob also. When I left she gave me the cake that was left. Boy it was good. I ate it last night while on duty; I worked until 3:30 this morning.

I was wrong about Bob. He is [damage]. I will send you his letter just in case.

Mrs. Cady has sent a package of [damage] and papers. She will send more [damage] sent him stamps. I will keep her [damage] anything she needs. The conditions [damage] be the same big for where the service [damage] the county [damage] begins to live. The [damage] plenty of water soon.

I have been working day and night for the past four days. I feel it too. My hands are scratched and cut to where they are sore. I am going on pass tonight so as too rest up. I think the time will be spent on the beach with the Wall's. I have a standing invitation (So I have the same at other places here).

Keep happy mom dear Bob and I will be home soon.

Love

Brock

9-21-42

Hello Mother Darling.

I saw a beautiful sunset last night and a beautiful sun rise this morning. I had a glass of Grape fruit juice for breakfast. I think I will partake of a sandwich in a few minutes. I was ready to leave this morning when the man said all aboard.

The air is crisp this morning. Just like winter. I expected it to be about 90° here. Of course the altitude has something to do with the temperature. I am only seven thousand above sea level. This is what all life has to do. Sit or lie on my bunk and ride, ride, ride for hours. I write most of the time — one letter to the States and one to the Paradise island. Two letters will have to please the public until I get where I can write more. Tell me one thing more tiresome than writing while lying on your stomach propped on one elbow.

I will leave you for a few minutes. I think I can get a little shut eye if I try real hard. You don't mind do you. This isn't as bad as one may think.

Now that I have rested, eaten, shaved
showered, and a number of other things I am
ready to finish your letter. The above sentence gives
a limited discussion of what I have done since
I wrote the first page.

This is not my home I am just passing through.
I may be here a day and I may be here a month
it's not up to me to say. I have turned myself over
to the officials. What ever they say it's alright
with me.

The next package you send let it be a box of
judy; if it's for the boys make it a ton. I
told Mrs. Cady that she made the best Candy in
the west but yours is the best in the South.
Never mind about the Candy. it would spoil
before it gets to me. I can get Candy from the
P.X.

I will say good after-noon now. I will
be thinking of you. I could sure go for one of
your fried chickens. I will be with you again
soon. Give my love to all
As ever,
Bob

Hello Mother Darling,

I saw a beautiful sunset last night and a beautiful sunrise this morning. I had a glass of grapefruit juice for breakfast. I think I will partake of a sandwich in a few minutes. I was ready to leave this morning when the man said all aboard.

The air is crisp this morning. Just like winter. I expected it to be about 90° here. Of course, the altitude has something to do with the temperature. I am only seven thousand above sea level. This is what [damage] life. No work to do. Sit or lie on my bunk and ride, ride, ride for hours. I write most of the time-one letter to the states and one to Paradise Island. Two letters will have to please the public until I get where I can write more. Tell me one thing more tiresome than writing while lying on your stomach propped on one elbow.

I will leave you for a few minutes. I think I can get a little shut eye if I try real hard. You don't mind, do you. This isn't as bad as one may think. Now that I have rested, eaten, shaved, showered and a number of other things I am ready to finish your letter. The above sentence gives a limited discussion of what I have done since I wrote the first page.

This is not my home I am just passing through. I may be here a day and I may be here a month it's not up to me to say. I have turned myself over the officials. Whatever they say is alright with me.

The next package you send let it be a case of fudge; if it's for the boys make a ton. I told Mrs. Cady that she made the best in the South. Never mind about the candy. It would spoil before it gets to me. I can get candy from the P.X.

I will say good afternoon now. I will be thinking of you. I could sure go for one of you fried chickens. I will be with you again soon. Give my love to all

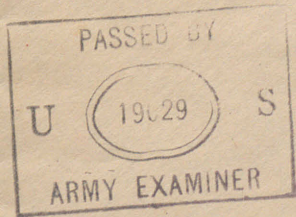
As wer

Brock

Ja Image Brock Thornhill
Sergeant - 72nd Bomb. Sq.
APO 708. G. Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.



First Class Mail
Via Clipper



Mrs. Bessie Thornhill

Box 205

Magnolia, Mississippi

U.S. Army Censor
Robert J. O'Leary
2nd. Lt. F.A.

Nov. 22, 1942

Dearest Mother & B.

It's a beautiful moon lit night. All is right. I returned from the show a few minutes ago. You have heard of the drive in theatre; well, this is an open air, everyone carries his own seat, if he wants to sit. The show, "Broadway," starred George Brent & George Raft. It was the first show this week. It was enjoyed by all.

The letter from Mrs. Wall was similar to all your letters. You have probably heard from her lately telling you the same that she told Bab and I. I think she is trying to hook me. I have all the reasons in the world for my belief too. With the letter she sent five pictures; four of them were of Barbara. Barbara is a nice kid but she is wasting time if she is waiting for me.

I haven't had any mail in so long that I hardly know how to write. There should be some way to get mail here. we have ships coming and going all the time but none of them bring mail.

we get a news bulletin every day. From all accounts the U.S. and her friends are getting up a good fight. The flying fortresses are playing there part. I suppose that's about the best place in the war. If the ball continues to roll the war should be over by next September. I won't put any money on it but I am all for sack.

Be my same sweet mother and sister. Keep your chin up and don't worry about us. we have a fine setup here with nothing to worry about. my prayer is for your happiness.
Love
Brook.

Nov. 22, 1942

Dearest Mother and B.J.

It's a beautiful moon last night. All is right. I returned from the show a few minutes ago. You have heard of the drive in theatre; well, this is an open air, everyone carries their own seat, if he wants to sit. The show, "Broadway" starred George Brent George Raft. It was the first show this week. It was enjoyed by all.

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Be my same sweet mother and sister. Keep your chins up and don't worry about us. We have a fair setup here with nothing to worry about. My prayers is for your happiness.
Love,

Brock

Wanda the girl I go with at the present and was it good. Every thing imaginable. Her mother can really cook. we ate like pigs & then lay around the house being lazy until about 12 o'clock. I can hardly wait for that Xmas dinner & hope I have a better appetite than I had last time I was home. I hadn't figured it out yet. I have a good appetite all the time now and nothing worth while to eat. Brock has had a cold the past week but seems to be doing much better now.

Things look pretty good & think we will be moving about the 3rd or 4th. I will drive the car down at my own expense. We are suppose to get three cents a mile but they won't give it to us. I won't have too much time to drive this either but will make it O.K. I don't think we will have any crime as maybe the furlough will come through O.K. I will have a chance at the Motor Sgt. too before long. I am just sweating it out.

I hope major made it home O.K. but wish he could have made it some time or we. Have you had any more about Hulst & his leave. Hope he gets it with us.

yr Betty Jon I will take you hunting with
me, under one condition, you promise not to kill more
birds than me. OK. I hope they have plenty of them this
year. Speaking of ducks uncle Bohron should be here.
I have never seen so many. They are thick as flies.

The boys go out bare a couple of hours & get 15 to 20.
I don't care much for such hunting myself.

I am going in to day and make out the statement
for you. Think I will make one for B.J. & let Brock
make one for you. Think that would be better.

I am getting everything packed up & ready to go. I
think Roy will probably leave tomorrow with the
advance men.

No more soon will see you later.

Love

Bob & Brock

Wanda the girl I go with at the present and was it good. Everything imaginable. Her mother can really cook. We ate like hogs and then lay around the house being lazy until about 12 o'clock. I can hardly wait for that Xmas dinner & home I have a better appetite than I had last time I was home. I hadn't figured it out yet! I have a good appetite all the time now and nothing worthwhile to eat. Brock has had a cold the past week but seems to be doing much better now.

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Hope Major made it home OK but wish he could have made it same time as we. Have you heard any more Herbert and his leave. Hope he gets it with us.

Yes Betty Jean I will take you hunting with me, under one condition, you promise not to kill more birds than me. OK. I hope they have plenty of them this year. Speaking of ducks Uncle Hobson should be here. I have never seen so many. They are thick as fleas. The boys go out for a couple of hours and get 15 & 20. I don't care much for duck hunting myself.

I am going in today and make out the allotment for you. I think I will make one for B.J. & let Brock make one for you. Think that would be better.

I am getting everything picked up & ready to go. I think Ray will probably leave tomorrow with the ordinance man.

No news so will see you lots,

Love

Bob and Brock